

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 9, 2020  
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“In our own small ways most of us have witnessed miracles of healing; sometimes they have been miracles of selflessness, when we have truly listened to someone else. Listening is one of the greatest of all healing instruments, not listening with self-consciousness, but with complete focus on whoever needs to unburden grief or sin or betrayal. And then, usually, we are exhausted and need to go for a quiet walk alone.”

Madeleine L’Engle

PRELUDE “Pastorale”

Charles Wesley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit of the living God breathes upon us,  
and on all that is finite and fragile.

**God is our refuge and our strength,  
a help in times of trouble.**

God’s continual presence makes new possibilities break through.  
Be strong and let your heart take courage.

**In the company of God  
and joined with the company of God’s people,  
let us worship together.**

HYMN “O Christ the Healer”

**O Christ, the healer, we have come  
to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored,  
when reached by love that never ends?**

**From every ailment flesh endures  
our bodies clamor to be freed;  
yet in our hearts we would confess  
that wholeness is our deepest need.**

**In conflicts that destroy our health,  
we diagnose the world's disease;  
our common life declares our ills:  
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?**

**Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us,  
shall reach the whole of humankind.**

OPENING PRAYER (a prayer of Henri Capieu)

**God, we sing to you and give you thanks. For despite our pains and faults, in the midst of our pains and faults, we know that you are a God who calls forth our praise and love.**

**For the world, so beautiful and so fragile; for life, so lovely and so threatened; for this immense universe in which your realm will spread, we praise you.**

**For this day which speaks to us again of the resurrection, for your Spirit which unites us in all our separate places, we praise you.**

**And because we can love you and love each other on the earth, in the name of the love of Christ, in peace and with joy, God we praise you. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      II Kings 5:1-15a

PSALM 111

Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are the deeds of the Lord!  
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of majesty and splendor is the work of the Lord,  
whose righteousness endures forever.

**Gracious and full of compassion is the Lord,  
whose marvelous works are to be remembered.**

The Lord gives food to those who revere God,  
ever mindful of the covenant.

**The Lord has shown the chosen people works of power  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The hands of the Lord work faithfulness and justice;  
all the commandments of the Lord are sure.

**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

The Lord sent redemption to the chosen people,  
commanding the covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is the name of the Lord.

**To wonder at God is the beginning of wisdom;  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;  
the praise of the Lord endures forever.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Matthew 7:12-14

SERMON      "Which Way Today?"

A TIME OF GRATITUDE

DUET            “Ave Verum Corpus”            W. A. Mozart  
                  Marie Von Behren and Teresa Treat

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN            “The Voice of God Is Calling”

**The voice of God is calling  
its summons in our day;  
Isaiah heard in Zion,  
and we now hear God say:  
“Whom shall I send to succor  
my people in their need?  
Whom shall I send to loosen  
the bonds of shame and greed?**

**“I hear my people crying  
in cot and mine and mill;  
no field or mart is silent,  
no city street is still.  
I see my people falling  
in darkness and despair.  
Whom shall I send to shatter  
the fetters which they bear?”**

**We heed, O Lord, your summons,  
and answer: Here are we!  
Send us upon your errand,  
let us your servants be.  
Our strength is dust and ashes,  
our years a passing hour;  
but you can use our weakness  
to magnify your power.**

**From ease and plenty save us;  
from pride of place absolve;  
purge us of low desire;  
lift us to high resolve;  
take us, and make us holy;  
teach us your will and way.  
Speak, and behold! we answer;  
command, and we obey!**

POSTLUDE    “Allegro”            William Boyce

Minister: The Rev. Bill Lovin  
Director of Children's Programs: The Rev. Ann Molsberry  
Organist: Bill Crouch  
Choir Director: Kristin Ramseyer

Special thanks to Marie Von Behren and Teresa Treat for singing during our worship today.

O Christ the Healer We Have Come - Fred Pratt Green. Words - ©1989 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715458. All rights reserved. Opening prayer by Henri Capiieu, from *A Book of Reformed Prayers*, ©1998 Westminster John Knox Press.

**JOIN THE SUMMERTIME BIBLE STUDY.** Bill Lovin is leading a study of the book of Lamentations. This short (five chapters) book speaks to our situation of change and worry as we look for hope. The sessions include time to talk with one another as we learn ways to “befriend the text.” The sessions are held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Call Bill at church (337-4301) or email him ([uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org)) if you would still like to join the group.

**RECORDINGS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES** are posted by early Sunday morning each week at <https://vimeo.com/channels/1547852>. The recordings remain up permanently, so you can watch past worship services at your convenience or recommend them to a friend.

**DO YOU HAVE A HYMN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SING IN THE COMING MONTHS?** Let Bill Lovin know. This is no guarantee that we will sing it, as the hymn will need to be covered by our reprint license, fit with the rest of the worship service and work for the person who will be leading the singing—but we'd like to hear from you and sing a new song.

**WE WANT TO SEE YOU!** We would like to have members and friends be a part of the greeting time during our online worship. Please send us a brief—10-30 second—video of you or your family waving, saying “Hi,” singing, or whatever you would like. Or send a photo. We'll start including a few of these in the worship service each week as a way to strengthen our connections with each other. Send your greeting videos to [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG\\_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UcrZ4ya9xFir39cG_1x-SCO6dVPBbV0B?usp=sharing)

**DONATION STATEMENTS FOR JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2020 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.** If you would like a copy please let Nan Martin know by emailing her at [uccicgiving@uccic.org](mailto:uccicgiving@uccic.org) or leaving a message on the office line (337-4301). She can email a copy or put a paper copy in the mail, if you would prefer.

### **FOOD BANK RETURNS TO ACCEPTING IN-KIND DONATIONS**

Beginning Wednesday, July 22nd, the CommUnity Food Bank will be able to accept donations of food and household items by appointment. Appointments will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8am-4pm.

**There are 3 ways to request an appointment to drop off an in-kind donation. You can:**

- Call the Food Bank at 319-351-0128
- E-mail [donations@builtbycommunity.org](mailto:donations@builtbycommunity.org), or
- Set up an appointment at [this link](#)

More information about the types of items we are able to accept is available [on their website](#).

The Consultation of Religious Congregations (CRC) is forming a Racism Education Work Group to compile resources and provide assistance to faith communities as they begin to tackle the tasks spelled out in the CRC Statement on Racism & Current Events. If you are interested in serving in the work group or would like more information, please contact Mark Martin at [pastormwm@gmail.com](mailto:pastormwm@gmail.com) or 319-330-3030.

**TEE OFFERING Will Be Received on September 13:** Our annual offering to support the Theological Education by Extension College in South Africa (TEE Offering) will be received during worship on Sunday, September 13. This offering has been a tradition in our congregation for several decades. It was initially started when the brother of our then minister, the Rev. Ed Heininger, worked for TEE in South Africa. TEE is a private, nonprofit, distance learning institution serving five south African countries. The mission of the college is to equip men and women for Christian ministry. Students come from 28 denominations across southern Africa including the UCC of South Africa. For more information about this amazing program, please visit their website at [www.tee.co.za](http://www.tee.co.za). Please plan to give generously—our support makes a difference.

**CONGREGATIONAL UCC WILL SERVE AT THE FREE LUNCH PROGRAM** on Monday, August 31. If you are interested in helping, please contact Vicki Thomae at [vickithomae@gmail.com](mailto:vickithomae@gmail.com).

